

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (New) A moveable platform assembly for mailpieces comprising:
at least one platform adapted to support a stack of mailpieces and advance the stack of mailpieces to a desired position; and
a drive assembly for driving the at least one platform.
3. (New) The moveable platform assembly of Claim 2, further comprising a sensor for determining when the stack of mailpieces has reached the desired position.
4. (New) The moveable platform assembly of Claim 2, wherein the at least one platform is selectively re-positionable along a path of the drive assembly.
5. (New) The moveable platform assembly of Claim 4, wherein the at least one platform is slidably mounted to a guide member.
6. (New) The moveable platform assembly of Claim 4, wherein the at least one platform includes an engagement element for selectively coupling the at least one platform to the drive assembly.

7. (New) The moveable platform assembly of Claim 6, wherein the drive assembly includes a drive belt having a plurality of notches, and wherein the engagement element is selectively engaged in at least one of the plurality of notches in the drive belt.

8. (New) The moveable platform assembly of Claim 2, wherein the at least one platform includes a first platform and a second platform cooperating to sequentially move a plurality of stacks of mailpieces to the desired position.

9. (New) The moveable platform assembly of Claim 8, wherein the first platform supports a first stack of mailpieces and the second platform supports a second stack of mailpieces, and wherein the first platform is removable from the first stack of mailpieces such that the first stack of mailpieces and the second stack of mailpieces become a combined stack of mailpieces, and the first platform is repositionable relative to the second platform to receive a subsequent stack of mailpieces.

10. (New) A method of sequentially moving a plurality of stacks of mailpieces to a desired location, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) supporting a first stack of mailpieces;
- b) driving the first stack of mailpieces towards the desired location;
- c) supporting a second stack of mailpieces relative to the first stack of mailpieces;
and
- d) driving the second stack of mailpieces towards the desired location.

11. (New) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
 - e) combining the first stack of mailpieces with the second stack of mailpieces to create a combined stack of mailpieces;
 - f) driving the combined stack of mailpieces towards the desired location;
 - g) supporting a subsequent stack of mailpieces relative to the combined stack of mailpieces; and
 - h) driving the subsequent stack of mailpieces towards the desired location.
12. (New) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of repeating steps e) through h) of Claim 11.
13. (New) A mailpiece feeder assembly comprising:
 - a lifting mechanism adapted to selectively lift a mailpiece from a stack of mailpieces; and
 - a gripping mechanism adapted to selectively remove the mailpiece from the lifting mechanism and move the mailpiece to a desired location.
14. (New) The mailpiece feeder assembly of Claim 13, further comprising at least one sensor for activating the lifting mechanism and the gripping mechanism.
15. (New) The mailpiece feeder assembly of Claim 13, wherein the lifting mechanism is moveable between an engagement position wherein the lifting mechanism

engages the mailpiece, and a lifted position wherein the lifting mechanism separates the mailpiece from the stack of mailpieces.

16. (New) The mailpiece feeder assembly of Claim 15, wherein the lifting mechanism comprises at least one suction cup.

17. (New) The mailpiece feeder assembly of Claim 16, wherein the lifting mechanism further includes a separator element to assist in separating the mailpiece from the stack as the mailpiece is lifted from the stack.

18. (New) The mailpiece feeder assembly of Claim 13, wherein the gripping mechanism comprises a jaw, the jaw being selectively moveable between an open and closed position.

19. (New) The mailpiece feeder assembly of Claim 18, wherein the jaw is further selectively moveable between a mailpiece grasping location wherein the jaw closes around the mailpiece and removes the mailpiece from the lifting mechanism, and a mailpiece release location wherein the jaw is open and releases the mailpiece to the desired location.

20. (New) A method for moving a mailpiece from a stack of mailpieces to a desired location, the method comprising the steps of:

engaging the mailpiece on the stack of mailpieces;

moving the mailpiece from the stack of mailpieces to a lifted position;
engaging the mailpiece in the lifted position;
moving the mailpiece from the lifted position to a release position; and
releasing the mailpiece to the desired location.

21. (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of moving the mailpiece from the stack to the lifted position includes the step of separating the mailpiece from an adjacent mailpiece in the stack.

22. (New) An apparatus for moving mailpieces from a stack of mailpieces to a predetermined location, the apparatus comprising:

a moveable platform assembly for moving a stack of mailpieces to a feeding location;
a lifting mechanism at the feeding location for separating a mailpiece from the stack of mailpieces; and
a gripping mechanism for engaging the mailpiece from the lifting mechanism and moving the mailpiece to the predetermined location.

23. (New) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the moveable platform assembly comprising at least a first platform and a second platform cooperating to sequentially move a plurality of stacks of mailpieces to the feeding location, and a drive assembly for driving the first platform and second platform; wherein the first platform supports a first stack of mailpieces and the second platform supports a second stack of mailpieces, and

wherein the first platform is removable from the first stack of mailpieces such that the first stack of mailpieces and the second stack of mailpieces become a combined stack of mailpieces, and the first platform is repositionable relative to the second platform to receive a subsequent stack of mailpieces.

24. (New) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the lifting mechanism comprises at least one suction cup moveable between an engagement position wherein the at least one suction cup engages the mailpiece, and a lifted position wherein the at least one suction cup separates the mailpiece from the stack of mailpieces.

25. (New) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the gripping mechanism comprises a jaw, the jaw being selectively moveable between an open and closed position, the jaw further being selectively moveable between a mailpiece grasping location wherein the jaw closes around the mailpiece and removes the mailpiece from the lifting mechanism, and a mailpiece release location wherein the jaw is open and releases the mailpiece to the predetermined location.

26. (New) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the mailpieces are flats mailpieces.

27. (New) A method for sequentially moving mailpieces from a plurality of stacks of mailpieces to a predetermined location, the method comprising the steps of:
moving a stack of mailpieces to a feeding location;

engaging a mailpiece on the stack of mailpieces at the feeding location;
moving the mailpiece from the stack of mailpieces to a lifted position;
engaging the mailpiece in the lifted position;
moving the mailpiece from the lifted position to a release position; and
releasing the mailpiece to the predetermined location.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of moving the stack of mailpieces comprises the steps of:

- a) supporting a first stack of mailpieces;
- b) driving the first stack of mailpieces towards the feeding location;
- c) supporting a second stack of mailpieces relative to the first stack of mailpieces;
- d) driving the second stack of mailpieces towards the feeding location;
- e) combining the first stack of mailpieces with the second stack of mailpieces to create a combined stack of mailpieces;
- f) driving the combined stack of mailpieces towards the feeding location;
- g) supporting a subsequent stack of mailpieces relative to the combined stack of mailpieces; and
- h) driving the subsequent stack of mailpieces towards the feeding location.